Missoula Children’s Theater
Performances are tomorrow, Saturday, February 6th at 3:00 and 7:00pm. Tickets will be available at the door, $4.00 per adult, $2.00 per child, or $10.00 per family of 4 (two adults, two children). Tickets are good for one performance only. There is no videotaping or flash photography during the production. A photo session will take place after the performance.

Mid-Winter Break
No School Friday, February 12th and Monday, February 15th.

“The YWCA Other Bank” Drive - February 1 – 28
Student Service Council needs your help! We are hosting a drive for much needed supplies for “The YWCA Other Bank”. They are in need of hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, diapers, Women’s health supplies, etc. Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Donation boxes will be located by the front doors. Thanks!

Olympia Junior Program
The following is the schedule for our students to attend the Olympia Junior Programs at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. Students will depart the school 30 minutes prior to show time and will arrive back at McKenny approximately two hours later. Please schedule appointments for after school time on these days. Please check your child’s backpack for the permission slip and payment envelope.
Grades 4 & 5: “Leyendas de Duende” on Thursday, February 18th at 10:00am
Grades 1, 2 & 3: “The Crayon Court” on Monday, March 1st at 12:30pm
Grades 4 & 5: “Freedom Train” on Monday, March 15th at 12:30pm
Grades 1, 2 & 3: “Charlotte’s Web” on Monday, May 10th at 12:30pm

Payment for Cispus (Outdoor School) for 5th Graders
Cispus will be upon us shortly April 26th – 30th and the cost per student is $150.00. If you would like to make installment payments, please contact Debbie at 596-8400 to get set up. Thanks!

5th Grade Parent Night at Washington Middle School
5th grade parents, please pencil in on your calendar, Monday, March 29th at 7:00pm for Parent night at WMS.

SOS Kids (Save Outdoor School) – Penny Drive Results
Our students at McKenny raised over $86.00 to help support Outdoor School for our 5th graders. Thank you and way to go McKenny!

Popcorn Sales by Student Council
The Student Council will be selling Popcorn on Friday, February 19th and February 26th. The cost is $.50 per popcorn bag and is sold on a cash basis only.
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz! It’s the latest from the OSD Players, a theatrical troupe consisting of OSD employees and their families. Come see our own teachers perform: Mrs. Grimm, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Stewart, and students from McKenny are Kayla Roth, Marlee McDougal, and Mataya Reed. They will perform for five shows February 25-28th at the OHS Performing Arts Center.

Proceeds will go to the OSD Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides grants to help students with basic needs and enrichment activities at all our schools. Tickets are $12.50 – $15.50 and can be purchased directly at www.seatyourself.biz/olympiasd

For more information, go to www.osdef.org or call 360/753-8853.

Upcoming State and District Testing
Coming up is one of the most important learning blocks for our students. Our teachers accomplish a great deal in the next few months. In the spring, state and district assessments will be given to measure academic progress of 2nd – 5th grade students. It also gives us information as to how well our school is reaching state benchmarks.

Beginning in 2009-10, the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) will be replaced by two new tests: the grades 3-8 Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE).

The MSP will be shorter to take than the WASL and will be moved online over the next few years. Reading, math and science will take just one day each instead of two with the WASL. For now, writing will still take two days. For questions and answers, check out this link: http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/FAQ.aspx

We have just completed our second DIBELS screening in Kindergarten – 2nd grades. You may be asking some of the following questions: What is DIBELS? What does this screening say about my child’s reading? What can I do at home to help my child?

DIBELS stands for Diagnostic Indicators of Beginning Early Literacy Skills. This is a screening measure developed at the University of Oregon that looks at children’s oral reading fluency. Fluency is a student’s ability to read at a good rate based on their grade level.

Why do we do it? DIBELS gives us one piece of data about a child’s reading-- rate of words per minute on a one minute test. This is only one measure we use to evaluate our students’ reading here at McKenny.

Research has shown a high correlation between reading rate (fluency) and overall comprehension while reading.

Three times each school year (September, January, and May), we screen students in Kindergarten – 2nd grade. We can then look for trends, growth, and areas we need to work on as a school.

What can I do to help at home? Have your child read, read, read....aloud to you, even for older students. The extra practice helps your child gain confidence and begin to read more smoothly and fluently.
Talent Show
Last year’s Talent Show was so much fun. Let’s do it again! Students interested in participating in this fun, non-competitive talent showcase should take note of the following dates:
Thursday, February 11, 2010 - Auditions at 6:30pm
Thursday, February 18, 2010 - Rehearsal at 6:30pm
Thursday, February 25, 2010 - Dress rehearsal at 6:30pm
Thursday, March 4, 2010 - Talent show at 6:30pm
In addition to performers, we will want 5th graders to emcee the event, help with backstage coordination and possibly run the curtain. Adult volunteers will be needed to help set-up, decorate, sell tickets, flowers and concessions and clean-up.

Applications are available in the office. Please contact Britt Watkins at britt_amy_watkins@yahoo.com with questions, comments or ideas.

International Night
Our next meeting for International Night will be on Wednesday, February 10th at 3:30 in the Library. If you haven’t signed up or would like more information, please feel free to call the school office at 596-8400.

Science Fair
The McKenny Science Fair will be held on Thursday, April 22nd. Ice Cream will also be available at the Science Fair. We are in need of additional judges for this year’s science fair. No science experience is needed, just a willingness to observe and discuss our student’s work. Please contact Dana Reinhart at 412-1331 if you can help.

Help Haiti – McKenny Fund Drive
February 1st – 11th, Pennies, Nickels, Dimes, Quarter, Ones, Fives, Tens, Twenties, checks payable to Partners in Health. No amount is too small or too large, everything helps! All money collected will be given to Partners in Health, an organization that has been helping in Haiti for more than twenty years. Charity Navigator gives Partners in Health a rating of four stars. You can learn more or donate online at their website www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti

PTO

Movie Night
Our next movie night will be on Friday, February 19th. We will be showing “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”. Cost is $4.00 per student. Drop-off time is 6:30pm, movie begins at 6:45pm and pick-up time is 8:30pm. Advanced reservations are required and due by Wednesday, February 17th. Students are welcome to bring their sleeping bag/blanket, a pillow and to wear their pajamas to the movie. This is for McKenny students only.

Box Tops Contest
Please keep sending in Box Tops! The contest will end February 19th. The class with the highest number of Box Tops in Preschool-2 and 3-5 will have an ice cream party! Ms. Ayre’s class will be in the 3-5 group.
PTO Continued

Carnival
The carnival is fast approaching and we are in the process of planning and looking for volunteers. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 in the Library. If you would like to help with the carnival, please contact Britney Martin at 459-5507 or martinmail2u@comcast.net.

PTO Board for 2010-11 School Year
Are you interested in serving on the PTO Board for next year, please contact Christine Swanson at cswanson@agcwa.com, 628-1698 or Wendy Carlson at 753-8757.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2010
10 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
Site Council @ 3:30  
PTO Board Mtg @ 6:00  
11 Talent Show Auditions @ 6:30  
12 **NO SCHOOL – MID WINTER BREAK**  
15 **NO SCHOOL – PRESIDENTS DAY**  
17 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
18 **OJP 4th & 5th grades @ 10**  
  Talent show rehearsal @ 6:30  
19 Popcorn for sale @ lunch  
PTO Movie Night  
Newsletter  
Science fair student support  
22 School Board Mtg @ 6:30 @ Garfield  
24 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
25 Science fair prejudging  
  5th grade passport check @ 1:45  
  Talent show dress rehearsal @ 6:30  
26 3rd & 4th grades passport check @ 9:10  
Olympia Youth Chorus assembly @ 10:30  
Popcorn for sale @ lunch  

March 2010 Continued

15 **OJP 4th & 5th grades @ 12:30**  
17 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
19 Early Release @ 12:52  
Newsletter  
International Night @ 5:30-7:30  
22-26 Early Release – Spring Conferences  
22 School Board Mtg @ 6:30  
26 Report cards sent home  
29 5th grade parents night at WMS @ 7:00  
31 Guitar Club @ 8:15  

April 2010
2 Newsletter  
5-9 **NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK**  
14 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
Site Council 3:30  
PTO Board Mtg @ 6:00  
15 Fwd: Young Ambassadors Assembly @  
16 Movie Night @ 6:30  
Newsletter  
19 School Board Mtg @ 6:30  
21 Guitar Club @ 8:15  
**Group Class Pictures**  
22 Science Fair  
26 School Board Mtg @ 6:30  
**28-30 5th grade Outdoor School**  
Newsletter